

## **Senate Joint Resolution No. 32**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 80**

Senate Joint Resolution No. 32—Relative to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 30, 2006.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SJR 32, Machado. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

This measure would declare the month of May 2006, and each year thereafter as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month and would memorialize Congress and the President to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and eventually a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and

WHEREAS, ALS is a fatal neurological disease characterized by degeneration of nerve cells of the body's voluntary muscles; and

WHEREAS, ALS is one of the most common neuromuscular diseases worldwide, affecting people of all races and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The onset of ALS is so slight that the symptoms are often ignored. Early symptoms may include twitching, cramping, muscle weakness, slurred speech, and difficulty swallowing; and

WHEREAS, ALS does not affect a person's mind, personality, or intelligence. Nor does it affect a person's ability to see, smell, taste, or hear; and

WHEREAS, There exists no single test providing a definitive diagnosis. An ALS diagnosis is based on an evaluation of symptoms and a series of tests to rule out other diseases; and

WHEREAS, ALS occurs in adulthood, most commonly between 40 to 70 years of age and affects men two to three times more often than women; and

WHEREAS, Over 5,000 new ALS patients diagnosed annually in the United States, with an estimated 680 new cases each year being diagnosed in California; and

WHEREAS, On average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, In 90% to 95% of all ALS cases, the disease occurs at random with no known cause or risk factors; and

WHEREAS, Research is focusing on finding the cause or causes of and stopping nerve cell degeneration, with researchers remaining optimistic that ALS studies will eventually lead to effective treatments for ALS; and

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month increases the public's awareness of ALS patients' circumstances and acknowledges the terrible impact this disease has, not only on the patient, but on his or her family as well, and recognizes the research being done to eradicate this horrible disease; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims the month of May 2006 and in each year thereafter, as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month in California, to coincide with the National Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide additional funding for research in order to find a treatment and eventually a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.